

Short term we could save tens of billions of dollars for American industry, business, consumers, and others, and then long term we need an energy policy in America, something that has not happened in 5 years, even with Dick Cheney's secret meetings at the beginning of his term as Vice President. What we have is more subsidies for the oil, coal, and gas industry instead of a visionary energy policy that will get us new fuels, new technologies for the future, and make us energy-independent and efficient.

□ 1945

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF CIN- CINNATI, OHIO NATIVE MARINE STAFF SERGEANT RICHARD T. PUMMILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a brave soldier who died in Iraq nobly defending our freedom and in the service of our country. Staff Sergeant Richard Pummill was killed in action while on combat operations in the Al Anbar Province on Thursday, October 20, 2005.

Rick is remembered as a star athlete who participated in football and wrestling at Anderson High School where he graduated in 1996. His friends and family knew him as a fun-loving, outgoing, and energetic person who loved life and his family. He also loved his community and his country. He was an individual who wanted to do something special with his life. He decided that special purpose was to join the Marines and serve his country.

He truly loved his country, and our Nation is a richer place because of his presence. Devoted to his family, Rick is survived by his wife, Chantal; his son, Donald; his parents, Lynn and Tom; and his loving grandparents.

Visitations are going on this evening in Cincinnati. He will be honored with a full military funeral tomorrow, Thursday, October 27, and buried at the Mt. Moriah Cemetery in Withamsville, Ohio. All of us mourn Rick's loss and are grateful for his brave and valiant service to our country.

I ask my colleagues to join me in praying for his family in their time of grief and need. May Richard Pummill rest in peace.

2,000 DEAD IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, his name is Staff Sergeant George T. Alexander of Clanton, Alabama. He died on Saturday, 5 days after a bomb exploded near his vehicle about 60 miles north of Baghdad. He was the 2,000th brave American to give his life in the Iraq war.

My deepest sympathies go out to his family, who I hope finds some comfort in the knowledge that Sergeant George Alexander is remembered by all of us as a true national hero. We mourn the loss of Staff Sergeant Alexander just as we continue to mourn all 1,999 who came before him.

In my recent visit to Iraq, nothing made a greater impression on me than the intelligence, decency, and loyalty I saw in our soldiers. They really are the best our country has to offer. It pains me to think that any one of them could become casualty number 2,001; 2,002; 2,050; or 2,060. And it pains me that we clearly do not have civilian leaders worthy of our troops.

It pains me that these soldiers have been betrayed by their superiors who sent them to Iraq on false pretenses, on a poorly defined mission without all of the tools they needed and without a plan to bring them home.

2,000 deaths is 2,000 too many for this mission, a mission which was immorally conceived and has been incompetently managed. The devastating truth is that Americans are not safer because of this war. We are not defeating the insurgency; we are inspiring it. That is not the fault of the men and women wearing the uniform; it is just the nature of this conflict.

Every day that we occupy Iraq breeds more resentment, more vicious and violent anti-Americanism. As one military commander put it, for every insurgent killed, three more are created. How do we win such a war? And let us not forget that the very first casualty in this war was the truth.

The President waxes idealistic about spreading freedom. But we all know that if spreading freedom had been the stated rationale for war back in 2002, there is no way this body would have authorized the use of force.

No, this was about the world's most dangerous weapons in the hands of most dangerous people. Remember, it was about yellow cake and aluminum tubes, mushroom clouds and nuclear winters. They engaged in a campaign of fear based on a lie.

Saddam Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction, a very expensive lie that has cost America 2,000 of its finest patriots. Their campaign of deceit was

absolutely reprehensible. But I think we also have to look forward, as well back; to focus on not just how we got into Iraq, but how we are going to get out.

I held a hearing last month to explore in detail that very question. But the President meanwhile can offer nothing but the emptiest of platitudes: it is hard work. Stay the course. We will be there as long as we need to be there. Terrorism bad, freedom good. That is all well and good, but what is the plan?

He says he is confident of victory. But what exactly constitutes victory? What are the benchmarks of success? What is the plan? What does the end-game look like?

If the President will not lead, then I guess the rest of us will have to do it for him. There are three measures that we can take immediately: first, multilateral corporation. The Iraq campaign never was a global coalition. But now we can prevent further loss of life by bringing the U.S. Armed Forces home while simultaneously encouraging the United Nations and the NATO Alliance to establish a multinational interim security force for Iraq.

Second, diplomatic nonmilitary initiatives. The U.S. must lead a diplomatic offensive, making its presence in Iraq a humanitarian partnership, rather than a military occupation.

Third, post-conflict reconciliation. The U.S. should work with the U.N. to designate an international peace commission to oversee Iraq's postwar reconciliation. It is time for the President to admit his mistakes, eat a little crow and shift course.

It is time to return Iraq to the Iraqi people and the troops safely home to their families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. SCHMIDT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE AMERICANS FALL- EN IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, yesterday we marked a solemn milestone: over 2,000 American military personnel have now given their lives fighting in Iraq. 246 Americans have also fallen in the line of duty in Afghanistan.

We owe these brave men and women and their families a debt of gratitude that can never fully be repaid. In July of this year, I led a bipartisan group of 21 Members of Congress in reading the names of the fallen into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Tonight we continue this tribute by reading the names of some of those who have fallen recently to complete the list.